

My wife Barbara and I, my sons Councilman Joe Baca Jr. and Jeremy, and my daughters Natalie and Jennifer cherish their friendship, and are appreciative of all they have done over the years to create positive change in the Inland Empire.

In fact, I gave Eloise Reyes a "Woman of the Year" award in 1993, when I was in the California State Legislature. She was recognized for all her great work in the community, and for being a true trailblazer as the first Hispanic, female attorney in the Inland Empire.

Madam Speaker, my good friend Frank Reyes has lived a true life of service. He is a perfect example of what one can achieve with hard work, dedication, faith in God, and love in family and friends. My family and I congratulate him on a wonderful career, and wish him nothing but the best in retirement.

WHITMAN HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER OF COLVILLE, WASHINGTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Whitman Hospital and Medical Center in Colville, Washington. Whitman Hospital, founded in 1893, has carried out its mission of providing medical care to members of the rural community in Northeast Washington for over 115 years.

Whitman Hospital and Medical Center is dedicated to assuring medical service is provided in accordance with its core values of respect, compassion, teamwork, stewardship, and responsiveness to the community. In addition to emergency services and surgery, the Medical Center operates a variety of clinics to support non-critical community health, such as allergy, cardiology, neurology, and ear, nose and throat conditions. The Whitman Hospital and Medical Center also provides opportunities for health education through classes, programs, and training seminars. The hospital proved its resilience by winning the "Top 100 Benchmark Hospital" award in 1994 and 1995 despite nearly closing due to financial difficulties in the late 1980s. Whitman Hospital and Medical Center's employees have contributed to providing the rural counties of Northeast Washington the kinds of healthcare options often only available in large urban centers.

Currently in the second stage of a \$19 million building and expansion project, the hospital and medical center continues to strive to provide better and more varied healthcare options. In its first stage of construction, the hospital constructed a new facility to house a 25-bed inpatient center, labor and delivery rooms, and radiology clinic. The current construction stage, scheduled for completion in late summer, 2009, involves remodeling several current operations, such as the respiratory therapy clinic and pharmacy.

Madam Speaker, I believe the ongoing efforts to provide excellent medical assistance to the counties of Northeast Washington make the Whitman Hospital and Medical Center worthy of recognition before this body. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Whitman Hospital and Medical Center by observing over 115 years of continuing dedication to community health services and education.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the manager's amendment put forth by Chairman DICKS to H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. This manager's amendment incorporates an amendment I offered to allow funds appropriated to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to be used as the non-Federal share of the cost of certain environmental restoration projects that repair acid mine drainage from coal abandoned mines.

For many years, the Interior Appropriations bill authorized OSM to provide matching funds for federally-funded projects related to treatment or abatement of acid mine drainage from abandoned mines. The language was inadvertently removed from the appropriations bill several years ago and today I am pleased that Chairman DICKS agreed to collect this oversight by restoring this important provision in the fiscal year 2010 legislation.

Communities that are impacted by environmental damage related to abandoned mines tend to be in economically distressed areas of the country. These communities have small budgets and little, if any, money for environmental restoration projects. Furthermore, the economic downturn has caused budget shortfalls for many municipalities and providing basic services such as police and fire protection takes precedent over environmental restoration.

Permitting OSM to use these funds to serve as the local match will help meet the department's mission of ensuring that citizens and the environment are protected during mining and that the land is restored to beneficial use when mining is finished. This provision will not cost the federal government any additional dollars.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman DICKS for including my amendment in this legislation and urge my colleagues to support this manager's amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROOKFIELD ZOO, COOK COUNTY, IL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Located in Cook County,

just outside Chicago and in my district, Brookfield Zoo has consistently been a leader in cutting edge animal science, zoo management and education programs. The zoo has been and will continue to be a wonderful resource for the people of metropolitan Chicago, the State of Illinois and beyond. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Brookfield Zoo on the occasion this distinguished anniversary.

Brookfield Zoo, owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and managed by the Chicago Zoological Society, has a stated mission to "inspire conservation leadership by connecting people with wildlife." It plays host to 2.1 million visitors annually, and cares for 3000 animals representing 450 different animal species.

Brookfield Zoo first opened to the public in 1934. Following the overwhelming approval of a referendum by the people of Cook County, construction began on the Zoo in 1926. While the onset of the Great Depression hindered progress, the federal Civil Works Administration (CWA) assisted in completing construction of the Zoo, and today many of the original, historic CWA buildings remain in use at the Zoo.

Brookfield Zoo has been an innovative leader among zoos. Notably, the zoo was one of the first "bar-less" zoos in North America. A revolution among zoos began in Europe in 1900, where cramped cages were disdained in favor of spacious enclosures, surrounded by moats and landscaped in natural settings. This was based on the belief that 'animals should be exhibited in as near natural conditions as possible', for the benefit of both the animal and the viewing public. Brookfield Zoo was designed with this modern concept in mind, and creatively overcame the challenges involved in maintaining safe, cageless environments in the northern climate of Chicago. Today, exhibits maintain their modern approach through a focus on ecosystems, incorporating native plants into animals' habitats.

Another "first" was the creation of a specific Children's Playground at the Zoo in 1937, which was later formalized into the Children's Zoo in 1953. This facility provided children not only with a location to play, but also enabled them to interact with animals, including goats, ducks, and lambs. Following the successful development of these facilities, Brookfield Zoo became the first zoo in North America to exhibit giant pandas in 1937, to breed black rhinos (1941) and okapi (1959) in captivity, and created the first inland "Dolphinarium" in 1960. It was also among the first to open a zoo animal hospital and to launch animal nutrition programs.

Just like millions of others, I have fond memories of Brookfield Zoo from my childhood. Growing up in Chicago, I was a member of the zoo for many years when I was in grade school and high school. It was a fun and safe place to go at all times of the year. Although I did not think about it at the time, I received a great education at Brookfield Zoo, including learning about not only animals and habitats around the world, but also the environment and environmental stewardship.

Education is something that Brookfield Zoo is strongly committed to. Last year, 250,000 students participated in school field trips to Brookfield Zoo, and more than 1,700 teachers participated in training and certification programs there as well. Facilities such as Brookfield Zoo are important sources of informal